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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

US Accused of Using Chemical Weapons in Tal Afar - Hurriyet
Surprising Offer from Israel - Hurriyet
Chirac Discusses Turkey with Schroeder - Hurriyet
Two Arrested From Hizb-ut Tahrir Operation - Hurriyet
Clash in the Judiciary - Sabah
Tension in Siirt: 1 Dead - Sabah
Turkish Nationalists Raid September 6-7 Exhibition -
Milliyet
Women and Children Used as Shield for Terrorist Activity -
Vatan
Zerkavi Brings Sharia Regime to Iraq - Posta
PKK Threatens Germany - Aksam
Two Turkish Soldiers Die in Mine Blast - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Greece Blocks Anti-Turkey Festival - Radikal
Sezer Urges People To Show Common Sense - Radikal
Federal Investigation On Bush Relief Effort - Yeni Safak
France Prepares 'B Plan' for Turkey's EU Accession -
Cumhuriyet
The Second Turkmen Massacre - Cumhuriyet
US Appreciates Turkey's Solidarity on Katrina - Zaman
Tbilisi Airport Contract Goes to Turkish Company - Zaman

BRIEFING

US Accused of Using Chemical Weapons in Tal Afar:
"Cumhuriyet," "Hurriyet," and "Yeni Safak" report that over
100 Turkmen have been killed in a large-scale assault by US
and Iraqi security forces on the Turkmen city of Tal Afar.
"Cumhuriyet" claims that 5,000 US troops, 1,500 Kurdish
peshmerge, and 1,500 Shiite troops are participating in the
operation. Turkmen sources say that Kurdish militia members
have destroyed 50 houses in Tal Afar belonging mainly to
Sunni Turkmen without evacuating the residents. The report
asserts that many Turkmen were killed during the operation.
Chairman of the Iraqi Turks Culutural and Solidarity
Association, Mahmut Kasapoglu, claimed in a written
statement that US military forces used chemical weapons in
Tal Afar, and that 500 Turkmen had died by suffocation due
to the effects of these weapons. "Hurriyet" adds that
Kasapoglu claimed US troops have surrounded the city with
barbed wire before what he termed 'the largest US operation
since the occupation of Iraq.' Kasapoglu called on Turkey
to pressure the US to end the operation. "Yeni Safak"
quoted a US official in Ankara as saying that the operation
Tal Afar is directed against terrorists and insurgents who
had settled in the city, and that it was not targeting the
Turkmen population. The official said the US is keeping
Turkey informed about the course of the operation in Tal
Afar.

US Generals to Visit Ankara Tomorrow: "Yeni Safak" reports
that Commander of US Forces in Europe, General James Jones,
and representatives of US Central Command (CENTCOM) will
visit Ankara for talks with the Turkish General Staff on
Thursday and Friday. The paper says that the discussions
will focus on the issues of the PKK and Iraq.

Two Turkish Soldiers Die in Mine Blast in Hakkari: "Aksam"
reports that 2 Turkish soldiers were killed and 2 others
injured on Tuesday when they stepped on a land mine believed
to have been laid by the PKK.

More Violence in Southeast: 1 demonstrator was killed in 9
others wounded in a clash with police in the southeastern
city of Siirt. The demonstrators had attempted to march
toward the city center following a press conference given by
the city mayor, a member of pro-Kurdish DEHAP. Police first

tried to break up the demonstration with pepper spray, while demonstrators pelted the police and the nearby municipality building with rocks. Shots were fired and one demonstrator was found dead in the street. 15 suspects were detained in the incident. Many commentators in the press highlighted growing tension between Kurdish activists and Turkish nationalists that has led to a series of violent ethnic confrontations over the past week. PM Erdogan, meanwhile, criticized DEHAP leaders for provoking the clashes, and asserted that the recent violence reflects the impending collapse of both DEHAP and the PKK. 'We will not allow them to exploit their democratic rights in this way,' Erdogan said.

EU Meeting to Fix Language on Counter-Declaration:
"Hurriyet" reports that EU officials are expected to finalize the language of an EU counter-declaration to Turkey's non-recognition of Cyprus at a meeting today in Brussels. The paper anticipates an effort by France and some other countries to insert language into the document that would call on Turkey to open its ports and airports to the Greek Cypriots by the end of 2006. The current draft language insists on "de jure" normalization of relations with Cyprus and the opening of ports and airports, but does not specify a timetable for these actions by Turkey. Asked about developments related to Turkey's EU process, PM Erdogan said yesterday that 'there is nothing to worry about at this point. There are just a couple of countries that are raising objections.'

GMF Reports Drop In EU Support for Turkey: A new survey by the German Marshall Fund has found that public opinion in the EU with regard to Turkey's EU accession has turned more negative. According to the survey results, just 22 percent of citizens in EU countries favor Turkey's eventual membership in the EU. 42 percent, however, remain undecided on the issue. The poll also reports that support within Turkey for EU membership has dropped from 73 percent to 63 percent over the past year.

Israeli Offer for Diplomatic Missions: "Hurriyet" reports that during the meeting of the foreign ministers of Israel and Pakistan last week in Istanbul, Israel described plans for opening Israeli representation offices in Turkish embassies and consulates in non-Arab, Islamic countries. "Hurriyet" urges the government to support the proposal as part of Turkey's mediating role between Israel and Muslim countries.

Judicial Year Opens With A Crisis: All papers report on a dispute between the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Appeals during yesterday's ceremony to mark the beginning of Turkey's judicial year. Supreme Court of Appeals chief justice Osman Arslan called for the Constitutional Court's authority to close or penalize political parties to be transferred to the Appeals Court, arguing that the Constitutional Court is not equipped to deal with criminal cases and functions much too slowly. Arslan also criticized members of the Constitutional Court for not having a proper background in judicial matters.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Tal Afar

"The Human Tragedy in Tal Afar"
Kenan Akin argued in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (9/7): "The US army in Iraq is conducting a campaign of vengeance in Tal Afar, and initial figures indicate more than 200 dead and thousands leaving their homes. The operation in Tal Afar, which is being carried out by US forces in cooperation with Kurdish peshmerge, looks like a massacre. There are claims that the US wants to change the demographic composition in Tal Afar. . The US claims the causes of freedom and democracy to justify its presence in Iraq, but we have seen nothing more than blood and tears so far. The US is being bitterly criticized by everyone, including the American people. Even UN Secretary General Kofi Annan is warning of growing terrorism in Iraq. Iraq has turned into a terrorist country, where it is possible to carry out every kind of violence. The US bears the major responsibility for this situation. For the future, it appears that Iraq will be divided into three. It seems inevitable that what starts as a federation will end up as a complete division. It is sad to see this, because Iraq used to be an Arab land where Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, and Turkmen and Assyrians could live as well."

"Behind the Scenes in Tal Alafar"
Emin Pazarci wrote in the tabloid "Bugun" (9/7): "The US continues its operations in Talafar, and there are reports of heavy clashes. Tal Afar is a typical Turkmen city, so naturally the current operation targets Turkmen. But it does not cover all of the Turkmen population, because the US problem is really with the Sunni Turkmen. In fact, the Turkmen population in Tal Afar is not unified. Most of the Shiite Turkmen are directly engaged with Iran, while the

Sunni Turkmen look more to Turkey. There is also a tribal Shiite Turkmen family there controlled by Barzani. . The area is very important for Barzani, and he wants to open an office in Tal Afar by using his family's link to the region. Once Barzani gains control over Tal Afar, the Kurdish influence will undoubtedly prevail. Having Tal Afar under Barzani's control would also serve US interests, because the insurgents in Tal Afar are coming from Syria and being supported by the Sunni Turkmen. The Bush administration is not happy about the current situation in Tal Afar. . It seems that in near future, Barzani will control the city and will manage to expand Kurdish influence significantly. He plans to create strong bonds with the Syrian Kurds as well. The Turkmen link with Turkey will be cut off."

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